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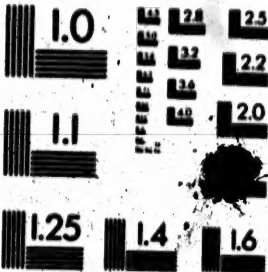
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Bishop's Court, Manitoba, Canada.

August 21st, 1880.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE AND MOST REVEREND
THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

My Lord Archbishop,

Our Provincial Synod, anxious to connect our young branch of the church as closely as possible with the Mother Church of England, recognized the Primacy of the See of Canterbury. I, therefore, venture through this letter to your Grace, as our Primate, to lay before the Church of England the peculiar circumstances of this Diocese.

I am happy to feel that I am not writing of a land still altogether unknown. Various circumstances have in the past year been bringing to the knowledge of the people in England its fertility and vast extent. It is also known that an emigration is coming to us, already considerable, but, to judge from the experience of the United States, likely to assume in a few years vast proportions. Still I would place before your Grace a few very weighty facts.

1. The land disposed of by Government from the establishment
of a Land Office in 1872 up to October 31, 1877, was . . . 1,400,000 acres.
In the single year ending October 31, 1878 . . . 700,000 "
" " " 1879 . . . 1,000,000 "

Besides this large amount, mainly taken up in Homesteads and Pre-emption, nearly two millions of acres have been granted to meet claims by half-breeds and old residents.

The vast amount of land owned by the Hudson's Bay Company is also now in the market. Emigrants are, by purchase, entering on land from both these sources.

2. In 1870 there were 16 Protestant Common School districts established.
" 1877 " 38 " " "
" 1878 " 100 " " "

The number is continually increasing—showing the formation of new settlements of sufficient population for a school.

3. In 1870 there were 19 post offices established.
" 1878 " 58 " "
" 1879 " 120 " "

A considerable number have been opened since.

4. The City of Winnipeg, which had in 1871 only a population of 300, besides the military temporarily stationed in it, has now a population of 10,000. It stands ninth in the Dominion of Canada in the list of Ports for the collection of duty—leaving behind such cities as Ottawa and Kingston, and being only doubled by Quebec. This shows the amazing extent of business passing through it.

I need not enlarge on the significance of these facts. It must be remembered, too, in connection with them, how greatly the facilities for coming to this land are being increased. Within two years Winnipeg will have railway to Lake Superior on one side and 200 miles west on the other. The Province of Manitoba and a considerable section of country in this Diocese west of the Province are being covered with a sparse population. The difficulty of ministering to this population is almost inconceivable to outsiders.

Each settler, if possible, takes 320 acres. Many of the settlers are single men living alone. In too many cases a proportion of the land is from one cause or another unoccupied. It is, therefore, very difficult in the first years of a new settlement to get together a congregation of any size or power.

Then the population, sparse as it is, is composed of adherents of different denominations, one having a predominance in one district and another in another.

The practical outcome of the situation I have described is an impossibility of immediate self-support, or of anything approaching it in any new settlement. The consequence of this is that any church that cannot obtain at the present time practical help from outside must lose any chance of establishing or extending itself through the rural settlements in the great country that is rising up here. This is becoming more and more our own position. Members of our church from the various Dioceses of Canada and from England are to be found scattered in all directions over the face of the country. In several large districts containing from 400 to 1,000 square miles, mostly taken up by settlers, there is no minister of our church to afford them the means of grace.

We need at the present time an additional sum of about £800 (4,000 dols.) yearly to supply missionaries for six large districts and spheres of work, now unoccupied, and relieve our general mission fund, which is severely strained.

The majority of the emigrants coming at present to this country are doubtless from the older Canadian provinces, yet in several of those districts a large proportion of the members of our church are from England.

I address this letter to Your Grace with much anxiety. I wish my words to come home to the hearts of English churchmen—that they may realise both the great future of this country and the position in which their church finds itself. From all appearances we must mainly—I almost fear to say entirely—look to England for the next few years that are all important. I have applied earnestly to individual Dioceses of the Church in Canada. But beyond a passing grant now and again of two or three hundred dollars, very gratefully received, and very helpful to our small Mission Fund, there has been but one practical answer. The Church in Canada has itself such needs and difficulties that it cannot help us. I trust, however, that the Provincial Synod may see its way to some organisation for our aid.

But at present this is our position, that, while the Church of Canada has not yet been able to give us one missionary, the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches in Canada are alone between them mainly supporting little short of 50 missionaries in this Diocese. When our members in many Districts are left to the ministrations of other Bodies, many of them must become estranged and the Church here be crippled for its future work.

In another direction we also need help. We have established a complete system of Higher Education. If some wealthy members of the Church would aid us in our Schools it would not only strengthen our position, and increase our usefulness, but set us free for giving our undivided attention to the pressing mission work of the Church. Much has been done for our Schools; but the country has grown so fast that we need further help to keep us abreast of our educational needs.

In St. John's College we educate Candidates for the Ministry and Students proceeding to Degrees in the University of Manitoba. It has connected with it St. John's College School for boys and St. John's College Ladies' School for girls.

Besides our own St. John's College, there are also already in the University the Roman Catholic College of St. Boniface and the Presbyterian Manitoba College. And as the University is undenominational we may anticipate, when the Province grows stronger, large help from the State to the University as a whole in Professorships and many other ways—of which our students will share the benefit.

But I need scarcely point out the importance, both from a religious and denominational point of view, that our own College, having religious worship and religious teaching in accordance with our Church, should be in a good state.

The Education now required to be given in St. John's College and St. John's College School covers a very wide field. We have no little difficulty in supplying the necessary staff.

There are now Students in the several Colleges of the University reading not only for the ordinary B.A. Degree but for Mathematical, Classical, Natural Science, and Moral and Mental Science Honours. We have also Students in St. John's College reading for the B.D. Degree. The Fees of our few Students in the several Branches go only a short way towards the Salaries—yet it is of vital importance to us that this College should have such efficiency as to secure for it the confidence of the country, or, at any rate, of the members of our Church.

(a.) We need, then, help towards Salaries for Teachers. We have three Theological Professorships with small Endowments. But we need some Endowment for General Teaching. Money here at present gives with safe security a large return. From £5,000 to £10,000 would carry us over our present difficulties. A further sum still would enable us to reduce our Fees or form small Scholarships for promising students or boys—both objects of great importance.

(b.) We sorely need a new College Building. We have had to add new rooms and bedrooms from year to year by various make-shifts. Last year we turned our Bakehouse into a class-room for University Students. This year we raised its walls to form new Bedrooms. These constant additions have caused a large Expenditure. There is a debt of £2,000 on our buildings and they are most unequal to the need of the times. The S. P. C. K. has voted £1,000, if a Building is erected within 4 years. We need £5,000 more to build what we require for Students in Theology and Arts. Our present Buildings could then be left for the boys. A fine large brick building is now going up at St. Boniface College to hold 100 students and boys.

(c.) But for St. John's College Ladies' School the higher Education of young ladies in the whole of this country would be entirely left with the Roman Catholic Institutions conducted by a large staff of Nuns and Sisters. We are finding great difficulty in supporting this most necessary School. We cannot compete with the charges of the Roman Catholic Institutions. Our charges have been made less than can allow of self-support—yet they are still higher than those of these other

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Schools. We cannot in the present transition state of the country maintain our Ladies' School without outside help. We have a fine building with a valuable piece of land—but we have a debt of £1,000. We need at least £300 yearly.

I only desire further to point out what is so peculiar a feature in our case.

Most Colonies have grown so gradually that by the time they have reached any size there has been some City and portion of country able to assist. Here there has sprung up within, I may say, two years an enormous area covered with a sparse population while every Parish and Settlement has only temporary buildings. Winnipeg lies in 4 Parishes. Every one of these has only what I may call a temporary Church. There is not a single Parish that is not burdened with its own cares.

Our farmers and men of business are all beginning life, struggling to find the capital they need, having more than they can manage as a rule at present in their own private buildings, common schools, roads, and other necessities.

But there is a country rising up here that will repay any effort—any aid.

I write this letter with the conviction that there are many members of the Church of England, who, if they only realized our position, could and would give us what would both fit us for the work of to-day, and cheer up many a future emigrant to our land.

I am,

My Lord Archbishop,

Your Grace's most obedient servant,

R. RUPERT'S LAND,

Metropolitan.

Contributions may be sent to the S. P. G. or Col. and C. C. S., or the Rupert's Land Fund at Messrs. Mortlock & Co., Cambridge, or Messrs. Smith, Payne & Smith, London.

Communications may be made with my Commissaries, The Ven. Archdeacon Perowne, Redenhall Rectory, Harleston, Norfolk, The Rev. Canon Long, The Vicarage, Bishop Auckland, Durham, or The Rev. C. A. Jones, 2, Little Dean's Yard, Westminster.

